What Is the Value of CNSS 4011 and 4013 Approval?
The approval of the Cisco CCNP Security® and CCSP® training curriculum by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) under the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) 4011 and 4013 standards acknowledges that these certification curriculums meet the security standards required by the U.S. federal government for administrators of national security systems. By following the guidance of the NSA, federal agencies and private sector entities can protect their information systems and defend the nation’s vital information resources.

What Problems Does It Help Solve?
The 4011 and 4013 standards assist federal agencies and private sector entities to protect their information systems. Security professionals are faced with the new challenges of borderless networks, complexity of network applications and services, increased threats, and compliance requirements. Networks continue to become more complex, which directly affects how difficult the networks are to secure. The increased complexity demands that security professionals follow a more defined and disciplined approach to securing their information systems. The CCSP and CCNP Security curriculums address the competencies security professionals must have to evolve their roles and apply security discipline for Cisco products.

CNSS 4011 and 4013 Approval for CCSP and CCNP Security
The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) 4011 and 4013 standards provide requirements for administrators of national security systems. CNSS 4011 provides standards for Information Security Professionals, which include indentifying system vulnerabilities, investigating and documenting system security technologies and policies, and analyzing and evaluating system security technologies. CNSS 4013 is a more advanced set of security standards, which includes ensuring that information systems or networks are used securely, participating in an incident reporting program, directing the configuration and control of the systems and applications software, advising on the security anomalies or integrity of loopholes, and administering user identification or authentication mechanisms on the network. Both 4011 and 4013 apply to the CCSP and CCNP Security certification curriculums. Cisco Certified Security Professional (CCSP) validates advanced knowledge and skills required to secure Cisco networks. With a CCSP certification, a network professional demonstrates the skills required to secure and manage network infrastructures to protect productivity, mitigate threats, and reduce costs. CCNP Security certification program is aligned specifically to the job role of the Cisco Network Security Engineer responsible for security in routers, switches, and networking devices and appliances. In addition, CCNP Security certified individuals are also responsible for choosing, deploying, supporting, and troubleshooting firewalls, virtual private networks (VPNs), and intrusion detection system (IDS) and intrusion prevention system (IPS) solutions for their networking environments.

What Are the Benefits of CNSS 4011 and 4013 Approval?
4011 and 4013 certification for the CCSP and CCNP Security programs ensures that the Cisco certification curriculums are compliant to U.S. federal security standards. By being compliant, the Cisco certification programs train network security professionals who assist federal agencies and private sector entities to protect their information, and aid in the defense of the nation’s vital information resources. The CCSP and CCNP Security programs provide a hands-on approach to teach the standards, regulations, and best practices regarding security technologies and projects. This approach decreases the burden security professionals have in trying to decipher how to apply security skills and methods to products within their networks.

Why Cisco?
Cisco recognizes that network security professionals have distinct roles with the IT organization. These roles require unique skills and knowledge. The CCSP and CCNP Security curriculums provide candidates with job-ready practical skills and knowledge to adapt to the evolving network security complexities, increased threats, and increased compliance requirements. The curriculum is relevant to the complex security environment, broad enough to include topics for administrators, engineers, designers, and analysts, and modular in that there are a number of single courses and assessments for job tasks, specialties, and technologies. Both curriculums provide the knowledge and practical skills that are required to secure networks today and in the future.

For more information, visit CCSP certification and CCNP Security certification.